

SECRET

subject file

4 June 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Lay

SUBJECT : Priority National Intelligence Objectives

The proposed revision of DCID 1/3, attached to the ONE memorandum of 27 May, seems to me to be highly satisfactory. There are only three comments I would make:

a. The Foreword to the proposed directive contains, in paragraphs 3 and 4, some very sound statements which I do not recall having seen elsewhere expressed so clearly and succinctly. Particularly, the last sentence of paragraph 4 states a basic principle which for years has been ignored or brushed aside. It is to be hoped that these two paragraphs can be preserved essentially intact in the final version of the directive.

b. The Quarterly Supplement reminds me strongly of the reporting guidance which [] and I tried, with some success, a number of years ago, to apply to Foreign Service reporting. In this guidance, we were trying to draw attention to intelligence situations and problems anticipated in Washington, but of which the field might not be fully aware (either substantively or with respect to their importance) and which might not, therefore, be adequately covered by the normal reporting from an Embassy or Mission. I mention this similarity because of the possibility that the Quarterly Supplement may provide a basis for short-term guidance of the kind described above to certain continuing collection and reporting activities such as the Foreign Service, the Military Attaches, the Clandestine Services, and []

[] Such guidance might take the form of a somewhat expanded statement of the problems given in the Supplement, together with a few detailed and specific questions proposed by the analysts concerned, which they deem critical to the problem, and on which the collectors might be in a position to obtain information. If it could be worked out, this type of guidance might supersede the OCI "Current Reporting Guide" which is, itself, a direct descendant of the original concept that [] and I developed.

c. It is noted that no direct reference to [] is made in the proposed new statement of PNIOs. While there may be objection to this omission from

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

~~SECRET~~

some quarters, I believe the omission of these subjects from the
PMIOs is justified, since they are not of priority importance in and
of themselves,

25X1

[redacted]
[redacted] which latter are, of course, included among
the objectives.

25X1

SIGNED

25X1